Happy Holidays
Procrastination in moderation: A study break guide

Alex Kacik

PROCRASTINATION in moderation: A study break guide

Alex Kacik

Procrastination is good—in moderation. Some students fail to realize that procrastination can relieve stress and aid studying. In fact, small study breaks may provide an extra push that could translate into a carefree break rather than a long ride home spent contemplating excuses to explain lackluster grades to parents.

Studying takes on an entirely new definition prior to finals week, especially at Cal Poly. Students study for hours on end, frantically attempting to cover the material they missed throughout the quarter.

Thankfully, from a run around the track to playing a round of golf on Wii Sports, there are plenty of ways to give the mind a break. Close your book, put that highlighter down. Here are 5-minute study break ideas that can add some variety to finals week.

Create art at the Craft Center

Head to the University Union across from Poly Escapes to throw a pot, make jewelry or customize a skateboard deck. The Craft Center offers classes that teach anything from surfboard shaping to jewelry-making.

Students take periodic breaks throughout the week to systematically work on projects, Cal Poly civil engineering sophomore Ken-ny Sung said, who recently made a T-shirt at the Craft Center using bleach and a stencil. The Craft Center is also an excellent spot to socialize, he added.

"If I have half an hour between classes I don't go home, I come here," Sung said. "It's a good place to learn from other people who are willing to share their ideas."

The Craft Center provides a relaxed environment with the resources and space to explore one's creativity. A daily pass costs $2. It is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday and 12:30 to 6 p.m. Saturday.

Peruse Facebook or YouTube

It's just too easy. In fact, most students probably have the social networking site at the top of their bookmarks or Favorites list. Discovering the recent gossip, cyber-stalking an ex or catching up with an old friend is just a click away via Facebook.

Cal Poly materials engineering sophomore Kyle Keilly said he falls victim to Facebook especially when he is writing an essay or studying on the computer.

"I check Facebook about every two minutes when I study," said Cal Poly animal science senior Allison Yim. "I check Facebook about every two minutes when I study," said Cal Poly animal science senior Allison Yim. Curious to find out what all the talk is about regarding that Jared bomb guy or that kid who dances around with a light saber? Then YouTube is the place for you. YouTube offers millions of streaming videos that can add some much-needed laughter to those anxious study sessions.

Visit the Cal Poly arboretum

Need to get away from the computer? The Learning Pine arboretum, tucked away in the north end of campus at the Environmental Horticultural Science unit on Via Carta, highlights the world's five Mediterranean climate regions: Australia, California, Chile, the Mediterranean basin and South Africa. The arboretum features a variety of trees, shrubs and other landscape plants; it's ideal for a leisurely stroll or just a place to stop and think.

Students can enjoy self-guided tours using the Garden Walk guide that follows numbered stops throughout the gardens.

Climb the Poly Escapes rock wall

Scaling the state-of-the-art Climbing Wall outside Poly Escapes will provide an adrenaline rush that is tough to find inside a textbook. Experience the thrill of mountain climbing without risking your safety.

Access is free to Cal Poly students and Poly Escapes provides shoes, a harness and a helmet. It is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Visit the Mustang Lanes

Want to bowl a frame or hustle some amateurs at pool? Just down the way from Poly Escapes in the UU is San Luis Obispo's only bowling alley, Mustang Lanes, which provides 10 bowling lanes, arcade games and eight full-size pool tables.

see Break, page 3
Break
continued from page 2

If you are looking for a late-night thrill, try cosmic bowling on Saturday nights. The Mustang Lanes are open every day from early morning to late in the evening.

Take advantage of Recreation Center facilities

Take a break from studying and head to the Recreation Center to test your athletic skills. Stand at yourself in the mirror as you curl dumbbells in the gym, shoot some hoops or play some beach volleyball. Or take your skills to the racquetball courts, where quick reflexes can make the difference between a narrow miss or a gigantic circular welt courtesy of your competitor.

Hike Bishop Peak or the "P"

Put on some boots and scale Bishop Peak, located off Highland Drive past the residential area. Students can bike, rock climb, hike or run as they observe the wildlife and indigenous vegetation. Bishop Peak rises to 1,456 feet above sea level and was named because it was thought to resemble a Bishop’s miter.

The "P," behind the residence halls, features two main trails — one significantly steeper than the other — and is popular among students for day and night hikes.

Play ping pong in the dorms

Need a reason to crash the dorms? Make friends with a dorm-resident freshman or a resident advisor and partake in a game of ping pong. Ping pong may not be the most athletic sport, but it provides an excellent distraction from studying. It is a game anyone can pick up and play. Not only will ping pong satisfy a person’s competitive drive, it will ensure bragging rights to the victor as well.

Go to a park

Looking to tap into your inner child? Head over to a local park and swing like you used to in the good old days.

"I like to go to the park (off Tank Farm Road) and play on the swings," Cal Poly chemistry sophomore Anthea Sekuli said. Throw a Frisbee around or play some catch until you are ready to hit the books. Visit the Santa Rosa park off of California Highway 1 and Oak Street or the El Chorro Regional Park across from Cuesta College.

Take a Recreation Center class

Exercise can help relieve stress during the crunch of finals. Recreation Center classes such as Hip-Hop, Yoga and Pilates allow participants to physically challenge themselves in a friendly environment.

Cal Poly English junior Kellen Dickinson said classes help her be more productive and are good social outlets. Students and faculty can purchase $5 day passes for exercise classes.

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Prospects low but not hopeless for fall grads

Alex Kacik

Due to the recent economic downturn, Cal Poly fall graduates may need to work a little harder to obtain coveted jobs.

Projected national college recruiting for the class of 2009 has fallen to the lowest levels seen in the past six years, according to responses from 140 employers, the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Job Outlook, 2009 Fall Preliminary Survey. The poll reflects responses from 146 employers.

"There will always be entry-level jobs for the students, but maybe we won't do as many negotiating offers," said Carol Moore, career services program coordinator and career counselor.

In the past, many students would come in with three job offers and contemplate which to take while considering perks such as free cars, benefits and free cell phones, Moore said.

"That is going to be over," she said. "Students are going to be grateful to have a good offer and it may take a little longer — instead of getting one before you graduate, it may take three months out."

In August 2008, employers predicted an overall increase in hiring of 6.1 percent, for the '09 class according to the survey. However, as of October 2008, the hiring increase dropped to 1.3 percent. Also, more than half of the respondents plan to decrease their number of new college hires during the 2009 recruiting season than they hired from the '08 class.

"We usually have many more employers on board for recruiting, today compared to last year," Moore said. "That doesn't mean that at the end of the recruiting season that we won't have seen as many because we don't know, but usually there is a big push (now)."

The decrease in recruiting may relate to companies "righting their sails as far as travel," said Melinda McCana, career services employer relations and recruiting manager.

"The numbers are down from last year," McCana said.

Rather than the usual college hiring increases in most employer types and geographic regions, recent economic events have decreased virtually all employers' college hiring expectations during the 2008-2009 recruiting year, according to the survey. Also, employers will reevaluate their hiring needs more frequently.

But this doesn't mean that students should alter their career plans to cater to a successful market, said Brian Tieqe, Cal Poly College of Business associate dean of undergraduate programs and associate professor of marketing. Students need to be passionate about their field of study.

"Don't try to predict where the demand is going to be and make yourself into that," he said.

The economic recession will result in a more competitive job market, but Moore is confident that students will find jobs.

"It's interesting because it can be so hard and it can be so simple," she added. "If you just look professional, dress up on time, respect your bosses, you know, those simple little rules that we learn growing up ... You don't have to be a genius. Make people feel good about themselves around you. All that time you younger professionals can learn and then you have so much more to take to the next place.

Students sometimes lack the interviewing skills, resume skills and etiquette necessary to secure a premier job, said Tieqe. Students use test-message lingo, fail to write thank you cards and come to interviews ill prepared, he added.

"In this environment, instead of something that just counts against you, it may become a fatal flaw," said Tieqe.

"Don't try to predict where the demand is going to be and make yourself into that," he said.

"The graduates are still getting multiple offers and it's not just the very high GPA that are getting very high offers, it's pretty much across the board," he added.

By the numbers

6.8% August 2008 prediction for hiring increase

1.3% October 2008 prediction for hiring increase

More than one half of employers plan to decrease hires from last year

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND EMPLOYERS

Tieqe shared a similar sentiment.

"It could be that the number of firms that come to Cal Poly and formally recruit, maybe that number drops a little bit," he said. "I think the companies that come here consistently will still come here this year. Maybe instead of hiring four employees, they will hire one or two."

Graduate school is a viable option that will better prepare students for challenging jobs, Walsh said.

"The more advanced degrees you have, the better your opportunities are because you have horizontal flexibility and vertical mobility; the more things you get exposed to, the better situation you have," he said. "This is particularly true in a time of scarcity. The more nimble, the more adaptable you are, the more probable it is that you will find a rewarding experience."

Students will need to "cast a broader portfolio of activities," Tieqe said. Students may want to use the upcoming break to travel to locations where they want to work and participate in something for everyone.

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You deserve a break.
Gift guide: you don’t have to break the bank

Alisha Axson

The economy’s down and everyone’s trying to save money as the holiday season approaches. However, there are plenty of ways to give presents to your loved ones without racking up more credit card debt.

Depending on who you’re giving them to and how much money and effort you want to spend on each person, there’s something for everyone and every budget.

Tasty Treats

Everyone loves food so why not wrap up a loaf of homemade bread or a large plate of freshly-baked cookies. Include the recipe (if it’s not locked away in a vault somewhere) and the recipient will love you more.

Not into getting dirty in the kitchen? If your friend or relative likes coffee or tea, buy a nice mug or cup and fill it with inexpensive coffee and tea samples. Or, if they’re more into beverages of the alcoholic variety, grab a couple of wine glasses and a bottle of wine. Trader Joe’s has bottles that start around $2 or use all those points you’ve been racking up at BevMo.

Personalized Mementos

These gifts can be a little cheesy, but relatives and close friends will love anything you make.

Starbucks sells travel mugs with clear plastic on the outside which allows users to put pictures of friends or family members for all the world to see. Web sites like Snapfish.com and Shutterfly.com make it fun and easy to create memory books, cards and other gifts with personal photos.

If you’re feeling more creative, try your hand at making ornaments or for knitting and crocheting,” said Beverly’s manager Tam Bailey. “We have a lot of guys coming in to buy yarn.”

Themed Gift Baskets

If you have a little more money and time, gift baskets can be a fun way to please a friend with a particular passion.

Do you have a friend who is always at the movies or buys the latest DVDs? Load up a basket with bags of microwaveable popcorn, her favorite type of candy (quantity of course) and bottles of soda or other favorite beverage. Include a gift certificate to a local movie theater or a beloved DVD (on sale, or if it’s older, Best Buy probably has it for under $10).

If your roommate is so obsessed with his car that he asks everyone to take off their shoes before getting inside, buy items so he can take care of his baby all year round. Include soap, sponges, a squeegee, car wax and special products for shining up his wheels and interior.

This is something that can be done with everyone you need to give a gift to. Just think a little and you’ll figure out a good idea.

Other Ideas

If none of these ideas spark your interest, there are still tons of possibilities out there. If you have a big group of friends or a lot of roommates who you’re worried about giving gifts to, call to them and organize a white elephant party or stocking exchange.

There are different rules for white elephant gift exchanges so look them up online and modify them to fit your needs. This is an easy way to include everyone without breaking the bank.

For a stocking exchange, have all your roommates decorate a stocking and then draw names to see who fills which person’s stocking. Miniature products can be found in the travel aisle of stores like Rite Aid and Longs. Don’t forget to check out dollar stores for great deals too.

If you want something creative but don’t have the time to make anything, stop by the Craft Center in the University Union. Many student-made items are for sale, such as various ceramic pieces.

“Try a great place to get unique, handmade art pieces,” said Megan Campbell, an instructor at the Craft Center. “You can also come in and make things for friends and family. Ceramics is a big one that people come in and do for the family, as well as stained glass.”

Remember, it’s not the amount of money you spend on your loved ones that matters. It’s a cliché but one that’s true: it’s the thought that counts. People will love that you took time to make or put together their gift. Your wallet deserves a break just like you do this holiday season so take some time, be creative and have fun.
Employers shedding jobs as recession deepens

Jeannine Aversa
ASSOCIATED PRESS

With the economy sinking faster, employers are giving more Americans the day to day experience of getting pink slips right before the holidays. The Labor Department releases a new report Friday that's expected to show the employment market deteriorated in November at an alarming clip as the deepening recession engulfed the country.

The Labor Department releases a new report Friday that's expected to show the employment market deteriorated in November at an alarming clip as the deepening recession engulfed the country.

Vintners hope to win over presidential palate

When People magazine reported seeing an unopened bottle of Kendall-Jackson chardonnay in the Obama's kitchen, the California winery fired off a couple of cases to No. 44. Just another gift? Hardly. Winning over the presidential palate is a big deal for the wine industry, leaving vintners — and vinophiles — curious about what's on tap for the next occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. "The one thing that I know about them is that they're quite adventurous in their tastes," said Chef Rick Bayless, owner of the upscale Chicago restaurant Topolobampo where President-elect Barack Obama and wife Michelle have ordered from the well-regarded wine list. Wine and the White House go back to No. 1, who tried his hand growing vines at his Mc Vernon estate in Virginia.

But it was Jefferson who really embraced enology, building, and stocking White House Cellars. He also introduced guests, not always successfully, to fine, dry vintages vs. the sweet, fortified wines then in vogue, said John Hallman, author of "Thomas Jefferson and Wine," and a fellow at the Overby-Center for Southern Journalism and Politics at the University of Mississippi.

Getting poured for a president is a thrill that doesn't fade, said Hugh Davies, president of the Schramsberg winery that moved from relative obscurity to the world stage when Nixon used its sparkling wine to toast Chinese Premier Chou En-lai in Beijing in 1972. Davies was about 6 at the time, but he remembers the crackle of activity that followed as his older brother drove their dad, late winery founder Jack Davies, and 15 cases of wine from the Napa Valley to a nearby Air Force base.

Since then, Schramsberg has served at a number of White House events, a tradition Davies hopes continues. In fact, he expressed himself willing to accept an inaugural invite — "I'll bring the wine."

Kendall-Jackson hasn't heard back about its shipment, which was sent care of the Democrats' National Committee. But Lettie Leagie, executive wine editor for the magazine Food & Wine, said it's chardonnay seems a good choice for modern times — popular and reasonably priced at around $11 a bottle. She envisions a bipartisan presidential table graced with late state reds and red state whites.

"As a New Yorker, I'd like to see some New York wines represented — we were a huge state for him," she said with a laugh, suggesting a sauvignon blanc or cabernet from the North Fork region or a Finger Lakes Riesling.
Wines
continued from page 6

ling. Other picks a Washington state merlot, "because I feel they really do that grape well," a hearty California zinfandel and "to show that he is an
expert," a hearty California Merlot, "because I feel they really do
ziptwist ironi Texas."

Disagreed over alcohol. She was taken
as "Lemonade Lucy" for the dry spell
forth and flowed.

Brian William Seale in "The President's
ami, who didn't serve hard liquor at the
style of entertaining "much more up
to obscure their origins," said. "You can try to shadow, you can try to
visit, different angles — you can try to visit,
their own positions — find a
ich your way in; I think they had a lot
career." Tietje said.

"You can pursue that from any angle — you can try to visit,
you can try to shadow, you can try to
get an internship, a part-time job, a
pecific position, but it creates a
successful interview," he said.

"There is no pressure on them be-cause they are not interviewing you,
they are not interviewing you
are not interviewing you; they have someone
that they know. That's a great
way to start a really meaningful career.

Job shadowing is an excellent way
to learn about the company, Tietje
told.

Jobs
continued from page 4

Job fairs or even go door-to-door
job shadowing is an excellent way
to establish a personal relationship with
employers and increase connections,
he added.

Moore encourages students to invent their own positions — find a
location, company and specialty and
invent their own positions — find a
arget, but it creates a
pecific opportunity," he said.

"I think I'm going to the cabin with my family in Arnold,"
Jill Eaton, urban studies junior.

COMPILLED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY ALEX KACK

Economy
continued from page 6

"What will you be doing over the
holiday break?"

Going to see family and prob-ably going to be Santa Fe, N.M.,
looking for interesting restaurants.

Alex Bostock, English senior

"I'm visiting the grandparents in Sacramento. We're probably
going on a little family vaca-
tion. I'm going to catch up on
sleep.

Daniel Ballant, microbiology sophomore

"I'm going home and working on
my senior project. You will
never catch me in your traps.

Ayla Fialkow, physics sophomore

"I think I'm going to my cabin
with my family in Arnold.

Jill Eaton, urban studies junior

Wine on the Street

Economy
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estimate is correct, it would represent
the deepest cut to monthly payrolls
since October 2001, when the econo-
y was suffering through a recession
following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.
Employers are slashing costs to the
bone as they try to cope with sagging
appetites from customers in the Unit-
ed States as well as in other countries,
which are struggling with their own
economic troubles.

The carnage — including the worst
financial crisis since the 1930s — is
biting a wide range of companies.

Attention Students!!

"Turning Disabilities into Possibilities"

Achievement House is a non-profit organization dedicated
to providing vocational and community living services to
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Best Buy's Momo Bay thrift store at 730 Momo Bay
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nursery located directly behind Cuesta College.

Attention Students!!

Need that little extra something for your dorm or apartment?

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Attention Students!!

``Turning Disabilities into Possibilities...""
Human noise drowns out song of whales

Ariel David
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The songs that whales and dolphins use to communicate, orient themselves and find mates are being drowned out by human-made noises in the world's oceans, U.N. officials and environmental groups said Wednesday.

That sound pollution — everything from increasing commercial shipping and seismic surveys to a new generation of military sonar — is not only confounding the mammals, it is also further threatening the survival of these endangered animals.

Studie show that these cetaceans, which once communicated over thousands of miles (kilometers) to forage and mate, are losing touch with each other, the experts said on the sidelines of a U.N. wildlife conference in Rome.

"Call it a cocktail-party effect," said Mark Simmonds, director of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, a Britain-based NGO. "You have to speak louder and louder until no one can hear each other anymore."

An indirect source of noise pollution may also be coming from climate change, which is altering the chemistry of the oceans and making sound travel farther through sea water, the experts said.

Representatives of more than 100 governments are gathered in Rome for a meeting of the U.N.-backed Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

The agenda of the conference, which ends Friday, includes ways to increase protection for endangered species, including measures to mitigate underwater noise.

Environmental groups also are increasingly finding cases of beached whales and dolphins that can be linked to sound pollution, Simmonds said.

An indirect source of noise pollution may also be coming from climate change, which is altering the chemistry of the oceans and making sound travel farther through sea water, the experts said.

Scientists say the use of military sonar or seismic testing may have scared the animals into diving and surfacing beyond their physical limits, Simmonds said.

Several species of cetaceans are already listed as endangered or critically endangered from other causes, including hunting, chemical pollution, collisions with boats and entanglements with fishing equipment. Though it is not yet known precisely how many animals are affected, sound pollution is increasingly being recognized as a serious factor, the experts said.

As an example, Simmonds offered two incidents this year which, though still under study, could be linked to noise pollution: the beaching of more than 100 melon-headed whales in Madagascar and that of two dozen common dolphins on the southern British coast.

The sound of a seismic test, used to locate hydrocarbons beneath the seabed, can spread 15,000 miles (3,000 kilometers) under water, said Veronica Frank, an official with the International Fund for Animal Welfare.
Mandarin Chinese Program sees resurgence with new professor

Breehan Yoho-Mellor

With China rapidly rising as an economic powerhouse, more and more Cal Poly students have been taking advantage of the modern languages and literatures department's Mandarin Chinese language program.

The program, which has been plagued with financial woes and a lack of instructors willing to stay for an extended period of time, is starting to gather momentum again with current full-time lecturer Sophia Chen.

"We hope to build," said Brian Kennelly, chair of modern languages and literatures. "The two countries that really are going to eclipse the United States if they haven't already done so, are both Asian countries: China and India. And so for that reason alone, it behooves all of our students to at least know something about Asian culture."

Chen agreed, saying that not only are her students learning a language, they are learning how to handle a new culture with respect.

"Some students told me they want to learn Chinese just because they want to see the mysterious Chinese culture," she said. "Culture is important too because if you know only the language, you don't know how to interact with people in China, and then you're going to have some problems too."

In helping to bring that cultural experience to Cal Poly, Chen said she is planning to have a traditional Chinese New Year's celebration at the end of January. Since the Chinese New Year follows the lunar calendar, the exact date is different every year.

Chen also said she wants to have Chinese movie nights once or twice a month. She will be on hand to answer any questions about Chinese culture after the films, which will have English subtitles.

Kennelly pointed out that cultural sensitivity is going to be vitally important because students who wish to do business with the Chinese will have to follow a different social blueprint than has been done in the past.

"(Foreigners) will probably not want work under the same rules that people in the 20th century did, and that is play by the United States cultural script."

Kennelly agreed, saying that not only are her students learning a language, they are learning how to handle a new culture with respect.

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In helping to bring that cultural experience to Cal Poly, Chen said she is planning to have a traditional
After watching the epic sweeping "Australia," it’s hard to know where to start. This deep, layered and rich story is directed by Baz Luhrmann’s ode to his homeland. It is beautiful, breathtaking, romantic and stunning. The most striking aspect of the film is the scenery of Australia. The country itself is an actor in the film and lends a beautiful backdrop for Luhrmann’s original story to unfold. There are many traits in the film that I find in common with "Gone with the Wind" (romance, racial prejudices and battle scenes) but it is thoroughly new while paying homage to the old at the same time. If you are a fan of Luhrmann’s three other features, "Strictly Ballroom," "Romeo + Juliet" and "Moulin Rouge," this film will not disappoint you in the least.

The story begins with the young narrator, Nullah (Brandon Walters), a half-white, half-Aboriginal boy who is derogatorily referred to throughout much of the movie as “halfcaste” or “creamy.” Nullah witnesses the death of Lord Maitland Ashley, the owner of Faraway Downs. Nullah manages to escape the killers and rides off to work for Ashley’s cattle station. While hiding he sees Lady Sarah Ashley (Nicole Kidman), a British aristocrat who has come to apparelize the husband to return to Britain. Unfortunately, Matthew, the manager of the station and Ashley’s chief of men, decides to torpedo Mr. Fletcher (David Wenham). Fletcher works for the Carney Cattle Company, where the owner, King Carney (Bryan Brown), is determined to buy the farm from Lady Ashley and create a monopoly on cattle meat. She is assisted by the Drover (People Magazine’s Sexiest Man Alive, Hugh Jackman), who works for the Drover and wants only to drive the cattle. The story is at times confusing with several intersecting plotlines, but once it works itself out, it is a truly gripping movie. Luhrmann includes many subplots in his story: the Stolen Generation of Aboriginal children and the subsequent racism against the native Australians, World War II, Lady Ashley coming to view Nullah as her own child, a drove from Faraway Downs to Darwin and of course, the romance between the Drover and Lady Ashley. I had never seen Jackman in a movie before, but I thought his turn as the Drover (I do wonder what his real name is, somewhat natural for the Aussie actor. He certainly was good-looking and landed a few laughs. Amongst the numerous Australians seen in the film, the Drover is one of the only people to protest against the treatment and castigation the Aborigines face.

Jackman and Kidman also had believable chemistry and worked well together. Kidman was very good as the cold-exterior Lady Ashley who later has a change of heart when meeting the Faraway Downs people and really seeing Australia. His interactions with Nullah were precious and very touching.

Although I personally hate "The Wizard of Oz," it was nice how "Australia" wore the classic film in as a major piece of the story’s fabric. Bringing Oz to the land called Oz was a creative touch.

The costumes and sets done by Luhrmann’s wife, Catherine Martin, were spectacular. The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (PG-13) Fri, Mon-Thurs: 4:15, 7:00; Sat: 4:15, 9:15.

Happy Go-Lucky (R) Fri: 4:15, 6:45, 9:15; Sat: 4:15, 9:15.

Noble Son (R) Fri: Mon-Thurs: 4:15, 7:00; Sat: 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:15; Sun: 1:30, 4:15, 7:00.

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General Admission: $7.50; Matinee: $5.00. Children under 12, students with I.D. $5.00. Limit one ticket per coupon. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 9-30-08.

The hotel business and tourism industry of Faraway Downs is somewhat more secure than it has been in the past, Kennedy said. "It’s a big world. It’s really important so I think it would be a great benefit to Cal Poly students that they have this opportunity and this advantage.”

Although the program’s future is somewhat more secure than it has been in the past, Kennedy said the more students that sign up the more likely it is to advance and perhaps someday become a larger part of the modern languages and literatures program.

"The basic step would be of course to get students to be studying Mandarin," Kennedy said. "And in five or 10 years, we’ll look back and say ‘wow, look how far we’ve come.’ I’ll do whatever I can to help it.”
Perhaps the best thing to be said about Britney Spears is that, even during one of the most public breakdowns in music history, few ever doubted her. It was only a question of when, not if, she would orchestrate her comeback. The comeback frenzy is, of course, based around her sixth album, aptly titled “Circus,” which comes out Dec. 2 on her 27th birthday.

For someone like Spears, there exists a separate, distinctive checklist for what constitutes a successful comeback. A hit record would be the best weapon for any musician; for Spears, her signature abs and intricate choreography are as much requirements as a No. 1 hit (which she already achieved with the hypnotically repetitive single, “Womanizer”). As for the return of the abs on which her career has been based, I have to admit I had some doubt. But after watching the MTV documentary, “Britney: For the Record,” it’s clear that the new Spears is thin, glowing and with a full head of hair. Sweet is saucy good looks: check.

Spears’ last two record titles have been suggestively characteristic of her respective condition at each time. “Blackout” in 2007 could easily describe the coma vacation she took from her career and persona. However, “Circus” describes pretty much every aspect of her life as of late, from her personal life and mental state to the media frenzy surrounding her.

Fortunately, the album isn’t too circus-heavy. Instead, the songs have a uniformity of fluid party beats, although a bit more subdued than the in-your-face clubbiness of “Blackout.” The album is strong, uniting a sweet, silky-voiced Spears with a not-that-innocent Spears to make a dance album with intricate yet catchy melodies and solid, polished songs. The album has a sense of freshness with new elements of maturity, honesty and confidence that somehow come through in her voice, which, if in the past ever sounded as if it was trying too hard, now sounds confident and convincing. For example, Spears owns in the title track, “Circus,” where she opens haughtily, “I’m a put-on-a-show kind of girl.” This is the song that reintroduces Britney Spears as the Queen of Pop.

Another song that lets her personality shine is the ballad, “Out From Under.” This gentle gem sees Spears revealing a vulnerable quality similar to “Blackout”’s “Why Should I Be Sad,” except the current one gives personal hints in small doses as opposed to past songs’ specific biographical details about her public image and tabloid woes. “Out From Under” is more vague but still shows her vulnerability. She does not make herself the focus of the entire album, which makes it more balanced and leaves us wanting more.

If there were a dud on “Circus,” it would have to be “Miss Me More.” With hints of islandy, Cuban flavor, it is the least Spears, page 12
Australia

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are gorgeous and truly fit the look of the film. It is part classic Hollywood epic, part war movie and part fairy tale. Australia is refreshing in an Oscar season amidst many films that are based on acclaimed novels or plays. Lurhmann's films tend to divide people; they either love him or hate him.

Perhaps that is part of his charm as a director, but he truly takes an eager and artistic approach to his works. And with Lurhmann, there's no such thing as over the top.

I expect it to receive nominations for cinematography, art direction and original screenplay. It is a crowded Oscar field for best actor. I think Jackson is a long shot, but he truly is the most compelling figure in the movie, aside from the terrific young Walters as Nullah.

"Australia" will leave you breathless and I personally can't wait to visit the country with its beautiful scenery and engaging people. I also applaud Lurhmann for raising awareness about the Stolen Generation of the Aboriginal children and taking a stance. The Australian government just this year issued a formal apology to those displaced people.

I highly recommend Australia; it is truly a worthwhile trip to Oz.

Spears

continued from page 11

silliest track on the album with moans, squeals and suggestive comments.

Speaking of vocals, "Circus" manages to balance both showing off Spears' trademark syrupy voice and drowning it in effects. Her voice still has that special quality in its own right. Definitely singing more than she did on the talk- and chant-heavy "Blackout."

Overall, the album is a success with plenty of dance hits and fantastic writing in the songs, "Kill the Lights," "Shattered Glass" and, of course, "Circus." The album resurrects Britney Spears into not just her former self, but a new Britney Spears who is more honest and complex, and therefore more likable.
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Access
1 Summer drinks 29 Actory Rob who played a presidential aide on “The West Wing”
5 the aisle (supermarket) 31 Italian battery pioneer
11 Like William Howard Taft 32 it went up in the 1960s
14 Actress Plot who played a presidential aide on “The West Wing”
15 Wilderness home 35 inaugural ball headliner
16 Ginger ... 36 what many Americans will do on 17-Across (as hinted at by the V’s in this puzzle’s answer)
17 Early November occasion in the U.S. 37 Where the “Mona Lisa” hangs
19 Zero 41 Leaves early, as a rule
20 Singer Mann 44 Cause for celebration: Adry.
21 The Blue Jays, on scoreboard 45 ... cava
22 Ribicoff and Lehn 46 Defeas, as through a loss
23 Dropped a size 50 “View of Toledo” painter
24 Costco 51 R.S. workers
25 “... that’s a jol...” 52 “Would ...?”
26 “... that’s a jol...” 53 “Holding Out for ...” (Bonnie Tyler hit)
27 “... that’s a jol...” 54 Jr.’s Jr.
28 Corrode 55 “... that’s a jol...”

Puzzle by Peter A. Collin and Joe Krasnoff
1 9 5 3 1
2 8 2 9 9
3 7 8 2 4
4 6 7 3 5
5 4 9 3
6 1 9 8 6
7 6 5 7 4
8 5 7 4 3
9 8 3 7

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Kirk was always extra careful to make sure he flushed in order to avoid any bad “Captain’s Log” jokes.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Can't "prove" science, but try defying gravity

In reference to Ian Nachreiner's comment "Global warming: an unproven theory...", in Thursday's article "Conservation: The Ideology of Individual Responsibility," I would like to point out that nothing in science is ever proven. A scientific theory is proposed, hypotheses are falsifiable by observation or experiment, which has repeatedly withstood unbiased attempts at falsification. Science deals in a currency of probability, not absolutes. No scientific theory is ever proven.

In your effort to further conservative ideology by instilling uncertainty and skepticism in the minds of the scientifically illiterate, I invite you to call into question a lack of proof for the theory of general relativity. Do you not fall toward earth like the rest of us? Or make the statement, "There is no proof for the germ theory?"

Now, you can claim AIDS was spontaneously generated to kill gay people. Or, a personal favorite of conservatives, question the theory of evolution. I suppose you were created by the Flying Spaghetti Monster, or was it Khali, or The Tiny Orbing Trampot, or... which one won it? God? That's it, God.

Craig Jacobson
biological sciences alumnus

Conservatives support bailouts; who's supporting responsibility now?

Every now and then, I will read something in the Mustang Daily that is so ridiculous and illogical that I will feel prompted to write a response. Thank you Ian Nachreiner, for supplying me with just such a column. Your piece, "Conservation: the ideology of individual responsibility," was so full of holes and misguided information that if it was a business venture, it would surely go bankrupt.

In your column, you talked about liberal elites "massaging a state of fear to enrich their own pocketbooks with green industries," while in reality we have entered a war in Iraq under a state of fear to enrich the companies of Big Oil, and the Industrial Military Complex.

You also said that government should be "willing to let businesses fail, rather than bailing them out."

But conservatives insist on bailing out the U.S. auto industry and air-line industry time and time again, not to mention the $800 billion bailout for Wall Street.

This amount of money makes social programs look like pocket change.

You wrote that "government is the worst manager of resources, with the exception of the military." I would argue that the military is the worst manager of resources that there has ever been. From the failed "Star Wars" program to unnecessary wars, the military has wasted more money than all of the "social" programs combined.

A trickle-down economy just doesn't work. We must water the "minds of the scientifically illiterate," I invite you to call into question a lack of proof for the theory of general relativity. Do you not fall toward earth like the rest of us? Or make the statement, "There is no proof for the germ theory."
BCS
continued from page 16

"You have to test the competitive benefits against the anti-competitive effects, and you make a balance," Abercrombie said. "It's so blindingly clear — in other words, you'd have to be blind not to see — that the anti-competitive effects are so pro-
found on the schools that are not al­
lowed in the BCS equation."

He particularly noted that Utah and Boise State, despite being unde­
fated for most of the season, were
not able to be considered for a na­
tional title.

"How do you say to Boise State
that they don't get to play in a top
bowl game?" Abercrombie said.

"They will never do it on their
own," he said. "They've been forced
to kick and scream by virtue of
those who played in (the
OCS equation)."

"It's illegal. It won't stand five min-
utes in any court. In fact, I believe if the
Department of Justice takes this to
court, any judge will rule on its
face that it's a violation. I don't even
remember it forever, and they'll re-
member their part in it. It showed
just because you're from a school
that doesn't necessarily have the big
name or the big headlines, it doesn't
mean you can't play."

Abercrombie also said that the
way the BCS will change is for the
government to step in and do it.

"If they never do it on their
own," he said. "They've been forced
to kick and screaming by virtue of
public outrage at one level or an­
other to begrudgingly allow a non-
BCS team in here and there, and
even that — especially this year — is
absurd and unfair."

Abercrombie is so confident the
BCS is illegal that he said he is cer­
tain it would be eliminated if the
Department of Justice takes it to
court.

"This is no contest," he said.
"There's no question in my mind it's illegal. It wouldn't stand five min-
utes in any court. In fact, I believe if the Department of Justice takes this to
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McShay: Barden 'best small-school WR'

After playing on Saturdays for the past four years, Cal Poly wide receiver Rameses Barden will likely be making the jump to Sundays this fall, according to one high-profile NFL Draft analyst.

In an e-mail sent Thursday to the Mustang Daily, ESPN NFL and college football analyst Todd McShay praised his reports. "In my opinion, he's the best small-school WR prospect in the senior class," he said last week he thought Barden could be a first-day choice, and Newday reported Nov. 3 that an NFL executive listed Barden as one of five "under-the-radar" prospects who could go in the first two rounds.

Barden, who'll play in the East-West Shrine Game on Jan. 17 on ESPN2, set Cal Poly career marks for catches (169), receiving yards (2,035) and touchdowns (30), broke Larry Fitzgerald's all-time NCAA record for consecutive games with a touchdown catch (29) and tied Randy Moss' all-time Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) standard of single-season consecutive games with a touchdown catch (11). The Alhambra native finished fourth in the voting last week for the Walter Payton Award, given to the FCS' best offensive player, and will likely be invited to the scouting combine in Indianapolis from Feb. 18-24.

The combine, known as something of an annual NFL job fair, puts players' physical and mental talents to test in a series of drills that help scouts from all 32 NFL teams evaluate their skill level.

The three most crucial factors for Barden at the combine, McShay added, will be running the 40-yard dash in the 4.5-second range, "running competitively for his size" in the shuttles and catching the ball crisply during the "gauntlet" drill because "his hands are only mediocre" and he "lets too many balls get into his pads."

The draft's first two rounds are April 26, with the final five April 27.

Three Cal Poly products have been chosen in the draft since 2005: linebacker Jordan Beck (2005's third round), defensive end Chris Gocong (2006's third round) and defensive back Courtney Brown (2007's seventh round).

Barden grew up in Los Angeles and hopes to be a "big, physical receiver with good athleticism for his size," but one who "needs to show the ability to separate from coverage during drills at an all-star game versus better competition."

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— Scott Silvey contributed to this report.

McShay: Barden 'best small-school WR'

Donovan Aird

Hawaii representative hopes to punt 'illegal' BCS

Ronald Blum

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Baseball salaries slowed in 2008, with the average salary in Major League Baseball this season was $2.93 million, the players' association said Thursday in its annual report. The 3.6-percent increase was the smallest since 2004, when the average declined 2.5 percent from the previous season.

"I'm not sure that year-to-year movements necessarily tell us very much," union head Donald Fehr said. "Obviously, salaries went up, revenues went up, and we would like to see that trend continue."

With some teams skittish because of the recession, the free-agent market has slowed this offseason. Only seven of 171 free agents had agreed to contracts entering Thursday, but the pace was expected to pick up at the winter meetings, which start today in Las Vegas.

"I think it is premature to try and make any judgments about this year given what's happened in the general economy," Fehr said. "At this point, it's too early in the signing season this year to try to make any judgments."

The average salary had been $3.13 million on opening day, according to the commissioner's office, but the figure always declines with a record $7.47 million last year.

The Chicago Cubs were second at $4.68 million, followed by the Los Angeles Angels ($4.5 million), the Chicago White Sox ($4.3 million), the Los Angeles Dodgers ($4.37 million), Boston ($4.2 million) and Detroit ($4.15 million). Philadelphia, which won its first pennant, was 13th at $3.57 million.

The New York Yankees topped the major leagues in average salary for the 10th consecutive season despite a disappointing year in which their streak of postseason appearances ended at 13. The Yankees' average of $6.86 million was down from a record $7.47 million last year.

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